

a solenoid ~~supported~~ within the housing and operating parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof; and

a locking member extending from said solenoid parallel to the longitudinal axis of the housing and actuated by said solenoid, the locking member being movable to selectively intercept the pivotal path of the pawl;

wherein the pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to the longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member.

2. (Withdrawn re election) The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein said pawl member is arranged parallel with said housing.

3. (Previously amended) The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes an opening in a sidewall thereof, the pawl operating through this opening and being mounted for the pivoting movement at a point outside of the sidewall of the housing.

4. (Withdrawn re election) A latch comprising:

a housing having a hook-like structure;

a catch bar supported by said housing for translational and pivotal movement, said catch bar being movable between locked and unlocked positions;

a pawl pivotally supported by said housing proximate said hook-like structure, said pawl being movable between a closed and an open position, said pawl being biased toward said open position, said pawl having a bottom lug;

catch bar biasing means for biasing said catch bar toward engagement with said bottom lug; and

a handle pivotally attached to said housing, said handle having an actuating arm which is engageable with said catch bar when said catch bar is in said unlocked position.

5. (Withdrawn re election) A latch assembly comprising:

a housing having at least a pair of hook-shaped structures;

a catch beam supported by said housing for translational movement, said catch beam being movable between locked and unlocked positions;

at least a pair of pawls pivotally supported by said housing wherein each of said pawls being proximate a corresponding hook-shaped structure of said hook-shaped structures, each of said pawls being movable between a closed and an open position, each of said pawls being biased toward said open position, each of said pawls having a bottom lug;

a catch beam biasing means for biasing said catch beam toward engagement with said bottom lug; and

a solenoid assembly being in communication with said catch beam and said catch beam biasing means wherein activation of said solenoid assembly causing linear translational movement of said catch beam from a locked position to an unlocked position.

6. (Withdrawn re election) A latch assembly comprising:

a housing having at least one pair of hook-shaped structures;

at least one pair of pawls pivotally supported by said housing wherein each of said pawls is positioned proximate a respective one of said hook-shaped structures, each of said at least one pair of pawls being movable between a closed position and an open position, each of said at least one pair of pawls being biased toward said open position;

a catch beam supported by said housing for movement between locked and unlocked positions, said catch beam being engageable with said at least one pair of pawls to thereby essentially maintain each of said at least one pair of pawls in said closed position when said at least one pair of pawls are each in said closed position and said catch beam is in said locked position; and

a solenoid assembly operating to move said catch beam to said unlocked position when said solenoid is energized.

7. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 3, wherein the pawl is mounted to the hook-like shaped member for pivoting, the mounting location being outside of the sidewall from which the hook-like shaped member extends.

8. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the hook-like shaped member is bifurcated having a pair of spaced apart hook-shaped flanges.

9. (Amended) The latch assembly of claim 8, wherein each of the hook-shaped flanges carries a recession, these recessions being juxtaposed, and wherein the pawl has a pair of pivot spindles extending from opposite sides of the pawl, the pawl being snapably mountable into the hook-shaped flange recessions.

10. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the locking member carries a collar at a point along the extension thereof.

11. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 10, also including a spring positioned inboard of the locking member collar and operating against the solenoid from which the locking member extends to bias the locking member to extend outwardly from the solenoid.

12. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 9, wherein the locking member carries a collar at a point along the extension thereof.

13. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 12, also including a spring positioned inboard of the locking member collar and operating against the solenoid from which the locking member extends to bias the locking member to extend outwardly from the solenoid.

14. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 13, also including lateral tabs, one each extending from each of the hook-shaped flanges.

15. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 14, wherein each of the lateral tabs is positioned on the outboard face of the respective hook-shaped flange.

16. (Amended) A latch assembly for releasably securing a first member to a second member, said second member having a keeper in a fixed positional relationship therewith, the latch assembly comprising:

an elongate housing having two opposing sidewalls thereto and a hook-like shaped member extending outwardly transversely thereto from an outside of a said sidewall thereof;

a pawl pivotally attached to said housing and pivotably movable between a closed position and an open position, said pawl engaging said keeper in said closed position;

a spring member biasing said pawl to said open position; and

means positioned within said housing and operating parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof for intercepting the pivotal movement of said pawl for holding said pawl in said closed position;

wherein said pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to said longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member.

17. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 16, wherein the housing includes an opening in a sidewall thereof, the pawl operating through this opening and being mounted for the pivoting movement at a point outside of the sidewall of the housing.

18. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 17, wherein the pawl is mounted to the hook-like shaped member for pivoting, the mounting location being outside of the sidewall from which the hook-like shaped member extends.

19. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 18, wherein the hook-like shaped member is bifurcated having a pair of spaced apart hook-shaped flanges.

20. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 19, wherein each of the hook-shaped flanges carries recession, these recessions being juxtaposed, and wherein the pawl has a pair of pivot spindles extending from opposite sides of the pawl, the pawl being snapably mountable into the hook-shaped flange recessions.

21. (Previously new) The latch assembly of claim 20, wherein said intercepting and holding means includes:

a solenoid supported within said housing and operating parallel to said longitudinal axis thereof; and

a locking member extending from said solenoid parallel to said longitudinal axis of said housing and actuated by said solenoid, said locking member being movable to selectively intercept said pivotably movable pawl.

22. (Amended) A latch assembly for engaging a keeper, comprising:

an elongate housing having sidewalls thereto and a hook-like shaped member extending outwardly transversely to the longitudinal axis of said housing, said hook-like shaped member being connected to an outside of one of a-said sidewalls of said housing;

a pawl pivotally attached to said housing and pivotably movable between a first position and a second position, said pawl engaging said keeper in said second position; and

means positioned within said housing and operating parallel to said longitudinal axis thereof for intercepting the pivotal movement of said pawl thereby prohibiting said pawl from pivoting;

wherein said pawl extends outwardly from said housing transversely to said longitudinal axis thereof and in adjacent proximity to said housing hook-like shaped member.

23. (New) The latch assembly of claim 22, wherein said intercepting means includes a solenoid.